

## 1 Thessalonians 4 Study Guide

This is an important chapter; Paul gives some serious instructions. He will be teaching on a believer's daily walk and life after death. These two subjects are of great importance to the Christians in Thessalonica and to us also. Please read the chapter at least twice and pray before starting to answer the questions. This can be a life changing chapter when properly applied.

Paul is drawing his letter to a close.

1. Read verses 1-4, by whose authority is Paul speaking to them?
2. What is Paul instructing them to do? It may help you see it more clearly if you underline the text then write down your answer.
3. In verses 5-6 what does Paul warn them to avoid?
4. What are the reasons for avoiding these sins? Vs.5-6
5. What type of life have we been called to live? Vs.7

Let's stop for a few minutes here. What would this life look like? Write two columns on your paper, title the first column A Holy Life and the second An Impure Life. Now under each of the columns come up with at least 3-4 things that would reveal each lifestyle.

6. To which life has God called us?
7. Is there anything God is speaking to you about that he would like to see changed in your life?

We are not saved to simply sit back and wait. Read Rom. 12:1-2; notice where the author of Romans directs our focus, "in view of God's mercy".

- **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- **One of the points of the Evangelism Explosion (a presentation of the gospel) is that our life should be lived as one big thank you to God for all he has done for us. Could thinking like this help us make better choices?**

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8. Paul is very clear in verse 8; what choice does he say we are making when we do not live a sanctified life? A life set apart for God's service. It is hard to misunderstand this verse isn't it?
9. If we committed to memory verses 7-8, do you think it would help us avoid wrong thoughts, wrong motives, and wrong actions?  
If so, let's write it out on a 3x5 card and begin to memorize it.
10. Paul commends them in verses 9-10, what is he pleased with them about?
11. Could this be said about your day to day dealings with others?
12. What does Paul encourage them to do in verse 10?
13. Will we ever love others completely as our Lord Jesus loves them?
14. In verses 11-12 Paul gives some very clear instructions, list them.
15. What does he mean when he says "make it your ambition?" (another translation says "aspire to" "seek to")
16. How does a person usually live out their ambitions?
17. Would you say these are your ambitions and aspirations at this time?

As I am writing this the news is on in the living room and they are discussing how another sports hero has been caught in sin. It is sad but all the talent, fame and money did not satisfy. All he wanted was more. He stands to lose many of the things that others have lavished on him. He stands to lose his family, reputation and etc...and why? Because, he did not restrain himself. I do not know the spiritual condition of this man's heart but unrestrained we will end up in the same sad state. The law of the harvest is set, "what a man sows that he also reaps."

18. When does Satan reveal the price tag for the sin he entices and tempts us to get involved in?
19. Do you see why it is imperative that we walk circumspectly? **Ephesians 5:15-16** Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
20. Now in verses 13-18 Paul begins a new focus, what is this section of scripture dealing with?
21. Do you think this may have been one of the areas of concern or confusion that Paul had heard they were struggling with or being misled in their thinking?

**22. Have you ever had a loved one die? If so, then you know how you longed to see them again. What does Paul want them to know?**

**23. What truth does he base this on? Vss. 14-15**

**24. Verses 16-17 tell some of the details of Christ's return.**

**Make notes from these verses of the sequence of events that will transpire when the Lord returns.**

**25. Notice what Paul instructs them to do with this information. Vs. 18**

**26. What has the Lord spoken to you about from this chapter?**

**Have you learned anything new that will strengthen your walk of faith?**

**Have you seen anything that will help you as you encourage others in their walk of faith?**

**27. What new insights do you have about the God who loves you? The more we know Him, the greater we can love Him and the more obedient we become to His word.**